

Appl. No.: 09/660,948

Filed: 09/13/2000

Page 4**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This is in response to the Office Action mailed November 19, 2003, in the above-referenced application. Applicants note with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that Claims 21, 22 and 36 would be allowed if rewritten in to independent form. To advance prosecution of this matter and without prejudice or disclaimer to Applicants and the filing of continuation applications, the following amendments are presented.

Claim 17 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 21 and 22. Claims 21 and 22 are accordingly cancelled. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment places Claim 17-20 and 37 into condition for allowance.

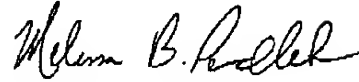
Claim 35 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 36. Claim 36 is accordingly cancelled. This amendment places Claims 35 and 37 into condition for allowance as well.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at his convenience.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on the date shown below.

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Grace R. Rippy

February 10, 2004  
Date